

BUFFALO CHIP

Omaha, Nebraska

Vol. III, No. 3: Fall Issue

WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT

Buffalo Chip is a quarterly newsletter published by the Omaha Justice Committee, to focus attention on justice issues in Nebraska and the U.S., with a special emphasis on the issue of Political Prisoners in U.S. jails.

Nebraska has kept two Political Prisoners incarcerated for 27 years: **Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa (formerly David Rice)** were convicted in 1972 for the bombing death of an Omaha policeman. Both men had been members of the Black Panther Party, and had thus come under close scrutiny by the local police force and the FBI (FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover, in launching his infamous **COINTEL Program**, instructed agents to destroy Black political dissidents by any means necessary, writing in a memo dated 9/16/70: "... it is immaterial whether facts exist to substantiate charges"). Mondo and Poindexter continue to assert their innocence, and ex-Governor Frank Morrison, who represented Ed Poindexter at the trial, has been quoted as saying that they were convicted for their rhetoric, not for any crime they had committed.

A BBC documentary about this case and that of California Black Panther Geronimo Pratt (whose conviction was overturned last year), contained a very telling statement by Detective Jack Swanson, the Omaha police officer in charge of the Omaha investigation. He said,



Mondo we Langa

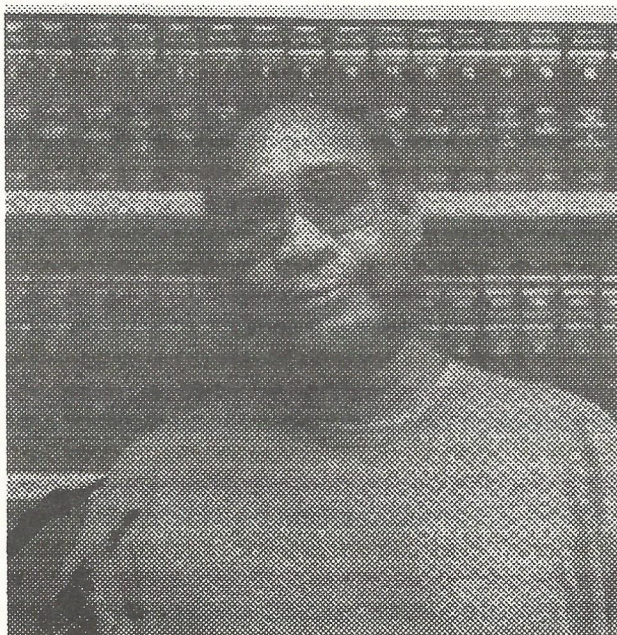
"We feel we got the two main players in Rice and Poindexter, and *I think we did the right thing at the time, because the Black Panther Party ... completely disappeared from the city of Omaha.* Everybody disassociated themselves from the Black Panther Party, and it's sort of been the end of that sort of thing in the city of Omaha, and that's 21 years ago [emphasis added]). The goal wasn't to catch the murderers, but to eradicate political dissidents.

The BBC was not alone in questioning the justice of this verdict: the case was reviewed by Amnesty International, whose then-Secretary General wrote to Nebraska's Attorney General in 1990, to express "serious doubts about the fairness of the proceedings in this case."

The Nebraska Parole Board has repeatedly recommended parole for Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa for the past five years, but the highly politicized **Board of Pardons (Governor Ben Nelson, Attorney General Don Stenberg, and Secretary of State Scott Moore)** have refused even to hold a hearing on commutation of their life sentences.

The National Council of the Churches of Christ, through its Prisoners of Conscience Project, remains in

(cont. on p. 8)



Ed Poindexter

Fiftieth Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

How is this milestone in human achievement being celebrated in the U.S.? Well, we're undergoing exposure as one of those countries that must be investigated by the United Nations Human Rights Commission, and by Amnesty International, for human rights abuses, both in our prisons and at large.

U.N. Human Rights Commission Investigation

As reported in the Summer issue of *Buffalo Chip*, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights sent a Rapporteur on extra-judicial, summary or arbitrary executions to the U.S. for two weeks, to interview U.S. death row inmates and meet state officials. The inquiry focused on capital punishment and deaths in police custody here in the land of the free and the home of the brave. The government's reaction has brought to mind that old river in Egypt.

Another representative from the Human Rights Commission, Radhika Coomaraswamy, a Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, has begun an investigation of human rights abuses in U.S. women's prisons. In Coomaraswamy's case, the United Nations has run into a human rights dispute between the U.S. Justice Department and the State of Michigan, over the abuse of women inmates in the state's prisons. The state of Michigan has barred her from visiting three prisons there, which are accused of widespread sexual misconduct against women prisoners.

Michigan Governor John Engler has stated that the federal government has filed a "baseless lawsuit" in charging Michigan with violating the rights of women prisoners, and that the U.N. is "an unwitting tool in the Justice department's agenda to discredit the state of Michigan." When a Michigan resident wrote criticizing the state for refusing access to the U.N. Rapporteur, Governor Engler's office evidently thought the old "national security" balloon normally used by the federal government to withhold evidence, wouldn't fly, and came up with a new rationale: "Governor Engler is confident in his belief that by allowing U.N. admittance into our state prison system, Michigan's valued state sovereignty would be severely threatened."

Coomaraswamy said she "regrets" she was unable to speak with Michigan state authorities because of "very serious allegations of sexual misconduct" in all three Michigan prisons. She was also prevented from meeting with state representatives in Michigan. She said that preliminary investigations pointed to the fact that "sexual misconduct by prison staff is widespread in American women's prisons," and that it "appears to be pervasive particularly in the state of Michigan." She indicated that Georgia and Minnesota, for example, have taken positive initiatives to combat the problem. She was

also critical of the Valley State Prison for Women in Chowchilla, California, where there have been serious allegations of sexual misconduct.

Amnesty International Campaign

And to our shame, October 6 in Washington, D. C., Amnesty International launched a one-year, world-wide campaign on human rights issues in the United States. Amnesty sections around the globe will try to raise the profile of human rights generally in the U.S., and will address specific areas of concern. Amnesty uses the Universal Declaration of Human Rights -- the very document the U.S. played such a key role in developing, as its standard in investigating human rights abuses in the U.S.

The U.S. will not be held to higher standards than those we ourselves demand of other countries; Amnesty will challenge the government to live up to the commitment all countries made in signing the Declaration of Human Rights, and to complete the unfinished business of equal rights for all in the world's leading democracy.

To explain the campaign, Amnesty International has stated, "The U.S. is a powerful symbol of freedom and democracy, yet there are persistent and widespread patterns of human rights abuse in police departments and jails throughout this country. Over the years, thousands of grassroots activists have worked to end these abuses. The new campaign is intended to support their efforts."

Amnesty's campaign will cover police misconduct and accountability, prison ill-treatment, the death penalty, and the detention of individuals seeking political asylum. The campaign will also seek passage of a code of conduct to prevent U.S. arms transfers to states with poor human rights records.

During the campaign, Amnesty has given its U.S. chapter a limited exemption from its standard rule of prohibiting work to be done in one's own country. Amnesty groups in local communities will ask their police departments and local prison authorities to observe international human rights standards formally ratified by the U.S.

.....

• Reflect how you are to govern a people who think they ought to be free, and think they are not. Your scheme yields no revenue; it yields nothing but discontent, disorder, disobedience; and such is the state of America, that after wading up to your eyes in blood, you could only end just where you begun.

•

Edmund Burke

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WOMEN In the U.S. Gulag

There are over 90,000 women in prison in the U.S. today, and 54 percent of them are women of color. Their average age is 29, and 58% of them have not finished high school; 7.25 percent of Political Prisoners in the U.S. are women.

The majority are there for economic crimes. Typical convictions result in imprisonment for property crimes: check forgery, illegal credit card use, etc. About 80 percent of women in prison report incomes of less than \$2,000 per year in the year before their arrest, and 92% report incomes of under \$10,000.

The vast majority of women convicted of violent crimes were defending themselves or their children from abuse. In California alone, there are 600 women in prison for killing their abusers in self-defense. Average prison terms are twice as long for killing husbands as for killing wives.

Ninety percent of women in prison are single mothers. Many lose contact with their children, sometimes forever. There are 167,000 children in the U.S. whose mothers are incarcerated.

Racism and economic discrimination are inextricably linked to sexism in our culture, creating severe inequalities in the court and prison systems. For example, Black women are twice as likely to be convicted of killing their abusive husbands than are white women. Black women, on average, receive longer jail time and higher fines than do white women for the same crime.

The number of women in prison has increased 138 percent in the last ten years. This is partly due to the worsening of economic conditions for women, and also due to the increase in arrest rates in the "war on crime" and the "war on drugs."

Women prisoners spend an average of 17 hours a day in their cells, with one hour outside for exercise, compared to male prisoners, who spend an average of 15

**Just Out! Fourth Edition of
CAN'T JAIL THE SPIRIT -- A Collection of
Autobiographies of Political Prisoners**

A look into U.S. prisons -- including the Nebraska State Penitentiary -- reveals more than one hundred Political Prisoners.

Many of these people have written autobiographies, which are contained in this 206-page book. If the U.S. holds no Political Prisoners, then who are these people? Why have they remained in prison long beyond the time when others have been released?

**Send \$15 plus \$3 for postage to:
Committee to End the Marion Lockdown
PO Box 578172
Chicago, IL 60657-8172**

hours a day in their cells, with 1.5 hours outside.

The Women's High Security Unit at Lexington, KY, was closed in 1988 because of a national and international human rights campaign. The prison kept the women in years of isolation in subterranean cells, conducted daily strip searches, allowed extreme sleep deprivation practices, and as policy, condoned a complete denial of privacy, including male guards watching the showers, and an intense campaign of sexual abuse.

Now Amnesty International is conducting interviews and visiting women's prisons in the U.S., in response to complaints that these human rights abuses have been revived, and are now pervasive and widespread throughout U.S. prisons. They are investigating reports that women are being shackled during labor; that male prison officers have assaulted women prisoners, touching their genitals during searches, and leering at women while they dressed or showered. Cruel, inhuman and degrading use of restraint chairs in prisons and jails is not at all uncommon, and medical care is inadequate.

The Valley State Prison for Women at Chowchilla, California contains a "Special Housing Unit" -- a 23-hour-a-day lockup, without work or education programs. Such facilities are proliferating throughout the U.S., within prisons, and sometimes as prisons in their own right: the so-called "supermaximum" facilities.

A California psychiatrist who has investigated these prisons told Amnesty International that the harsh conditions can induce psychosis, and visitors to the facility described women "losing their minds" because of their treatment. A lawyer reported that one woman had her stay in the unit constantly extended because she covered a slot in her cell door when using the toilet, in breach of the rules. The repeated punishment had broken her, and now on occasion she stands naked and shouts for attention.

Some related Web Sites:

<http://www.igc.org/justice/ccwp/>

<http://www.lightlink.com/heurich/prisoners.html>

<http://sun.soci.niu.edu/~critcrim/prisons/prisons.html>

<http://www-unix.oit.umass.edu/~kastor/ceml.html>

<http://www.prisonactivist.org/resistant-strains>

Also, see Web Sites of Amnesty International and the United Nations.

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ONCE THE NEW WEARS OFF

there was a time ago when i sang
"we shall overcome"
quite sometime ago
when with those of skins from dark to pale
i shared a rainbow dream
a vision of equality
of a time to come
but that was a long yesterday from now
when the singing of that song
would bring a tingling up my back
and a warming to my head
just as the "star spangled banner" late at night
some years before
would stream from the tube
with jets flying across the screen
in black and white
to coax with ease my standing
with hand over heart
at patriotic attention
but i knew and understood so little
was such a fish out of water
loan-sharked with "our" country's political cliches
and my own wishful thinking
but that was a time ago
quite sometime ago
i have had since then
to cry over spilled blood
and learn that too many crooks
had stolen the broth
emptying my head of melting-pot dreams
so that now the sounds
of "we shall overcome"
and the sight of people singing it
are to me a phony resurrection
a corpse made to sway
to a meaningless melody
by assimilationist hands
propping it up
in a grotesque pantomime of life
a crass, discount-store magician's
trick
to reward
believers in this house of cards

Wopashitwe Mondo Eyen we Langa

CONNECTING THE DISCONNECTED

by Mel Beckman

A new local publication proposes to "connect the disconnected," by helping Omaha offenders make the transition from parole/probation status to successful living in the community. The first issue of OMAHA CON-NECTIONS appeared in July and a second issue is in preparation.

O. C. Harry is the Editor, and the newsletter will be published by the Impact Development Group. In its own words, OMAHA CON-NECTIONS promises to be, for offenders and their families, "a highly visible and 'user-friendly' resource, identifying vital services, such as job

taining placement, income assistance, education, and health care, decoding eligibility requirements, filling the information gap and helping to make the transition easier."

The first issue lived up to its promise quite well, containing some very practical information about how to have sufficient identification upon release, where to obtain some family services, how to eat well so as to avoid stress, and how to increase the chances of making a good transition by doing pre-release planning.

OMAHA CON-NECTIONS deserves support and encouragement. Offenders need connectedness to the community quickly when they leave prison. This publication can help put them in touch with some programs and services they need, while at the same time urging them to be resourceful themselves when programs are not available. To obtain a copy, write to OMAHA CON-NECTIONS, P.O. Box 111252, Omaha, NE 68111.

In future issues of Buffalo Chip, I will pass on information about other local programs and services relating to offenders. Please give me a call if you are acquainted with or involved in helpful offender-related activities on the local or state level. Call (402) 558-2085, or send e-mail to melb@creighton.edu.



AN OPEN LETTER TO THE AFRICAN ("black") COMMUNITY CONCERNING LIFE AND DEATH

First in the decade of the nineties and the first time since the state-sanctioned killing of Charles Starkweather in 1959, it was Wili Otey, then John Joubert, then Robert Williams. Two of these men were African. Now, Ben Nelson and those acting on his behalf intend to put an indigenous ("Indian") person, Randy Reeves, to death in the electric chair. This, as those before it, will be a premeditated act, a contract killing for which an anonymous person will receive a fee for his murderous deed.

It must be assumed that this killing will be carried out with the same ruthless and cold-blooded spirit with which the near annihilation of this country's native people and the enslavement of African people were carried out. Because it is not morals that push the machinery of U.S. -- and, specifically, Nebraska -- politics, but political expedience, we seek to make no moral appeal to Ben Nelson, Don Stenberg and Scott Moore. Rather, we make this appeal to our Sisters and Brothers in the outside African community, to your sense of empathy for a person of color whose experience is fundamentally the same as ours, and to your sense of history. There are African men imprisoned at the Nebraska State Penitentiary who call upon you to bring whatever pressures to bear on the state political apparatus that might be effective in preventing the scheduled killing of Randy Reeves.

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ASSATA SHAKUR: Her Story and Her Statement

Assata Shakur is a political dissident. In the 1970s the FBI accused Assata of participating in attacks on law enforcement personnel, and she was high on the FBI's "most wanted" list (this was at the height of the FBI's COINTELPRO operations).

On May 2, 1973 Assata, Sundiata Acoli and Zayd Malik Shakur -- all members of the Black Liberation Movement -- were ambushed by state police on the New Jersey turnpike. One state trooper shot Assata in the arm and back as she had her hands in the air. Another trooper was killed. Zayd Malik Shakur was gunned down. Sundiata escaped and was later captured after a massive police manhunt.

One of the state troopers admitted that he shot and killed Zayd Malik Shakur. But Assata was charged with the killing, as well as with the death of the trooper. No credible evidence linked either Assata or Sundiata Acoli to the shooting of the state trooper. In 1977 Assata was convicted by an all-white jury and sentenced to life plus 33 years in prison. Sundiata was sentenced to life plus 30 years. He remains a Political Prisoner today.

After her arrest, Assata was shackled and chained to a hospital bed -- one arm paralyzed from a bullet wound and another bullet wound in her chest -- as police guarding her shouted Nazi slogans, jabbed her with shotgun butts and threatened her life. In a foreword to her autobiography, Lennox Hinds wrote, "In the history of New Jersey, no woman pretrial detainee or prisoner has ever been treated as she was, continuously confined in a men's prison, under 24-hour surveillance of her most intimate functions, without intellectual sustenance, adequate medical attention, and exercise, and without the company of other women for all the years she was in their custody."

In a recent open letter, Assata Shakur said that her main concern now is "about the growing poverty, the growing despair that is rife in Amerika ... The U.S. is becoming more and more of a police state and that fact compels us to fight against political repression ... I urge you to fight to free all Political Prisoners ... to abolish the death penalty ... [and] to save the life of Mumia Abu-Jamal, the Political Prisoner who is currently on death row [in Pennsylvania]." In 1979, she escaped from a New Jersey prison, where she had been sentenced to a life term after her 1973 murder conviction. She was given political asylum by Fidel Castro, and has lived in Cuba since 1984.

Now, New Jersey Governor Christine Whitman has offered a \$50,000 bounty to anyone who delivers her back to New Jersey authorities. Colonel Carl Williams, head of the state police, has stated, "We would do everything we could to get her off the island of Cuba. And if that includes kidnapping, we would do it."

Gov. Whitman has sought support from the

federal government, and Congressman Robert Frank (D., N.J.) stated that he plans to introduce a resolution linking "normalization" of U.S.-Cuba relations -- presumably including easing of the U.S. embargo against Cuba -- on Assata Shakur's return to the U.S. The U.S. currently has no extradition treaty with Cuba, but Gov. Whitman has stated, "This isn't about an extradition treaty. This about ... an act of good faith." In other words, if the rest of the world wants our blockade lifted, give Assata Shakur to Whitman.

In a recent open letter Assata Shakur described herself as a "20th century escaped slave" and said, "Because of government persecution, I was left with no other choice than to flee from political repression, racism and violence that dominate U.S. government policy towards people of color." On the moves to force her back to the U.S. prison system, she said, "It is nothing but an attempt to bring about the reincarnation of the Fugitive Slave Act. All I represent is just another slave that they want to bring back to the plantation. Well, I might be a slave, but I will go to my grave a rebellious slave ... I will never voluntarily accept the conditions of slavery, whether it's *de facto* or *ipso facto*, official or unofficial."

Governor Whitman claims that the pursuit of Assata Shakur is about going after "crime." But what kind of credibility does the U.S. have, when it denies that cruel and unusual punishment is an everyday event in U.S. prisons; when it denies the existence of Political Prisoners languishing for decades in U.S. jails, convicted on questionable evidence; when incidents of human rights abuses have become so numerous, frequent and widespread that both Amnesty International and the United Nations Commission on Human Rights are compelled to institute formal inquiries?

Plus ça change, plus la même chose



(The more things change, the more they remain the same)

TORTURE THROUGH THE AGES

Amnesty International Campaign: Excerpts on US Human Rights Abuses

"There is a persistent and widespread pattern of human rights violations in the USA. Across the country thousands of people are subjected to sustained and deliberate brutality at the hands of police officers. cruel, degrading and sometimes life-threatening methods of restraint continue to be a feature of the U.S. criminal justice system. In U.S. prisons and jails inmates are physically and sexually abused by other inmates and by guards in overcrowded and understaffed prisons, many of them privatized. Sanctions against those responsible for these abuses are rare.

"Many people who have been forced by persecution to leave their countries and seek asylum are held behind bars, for indefinite periods, in conditions that are sometimes inhuman and degrading.

"More than 350 prisoners have been executed since 1990. Some were children when the crimes were committed; some were severely mentally impaired. Another 3,300 people are on death row, put there by a system whose application of the death penalty is arbitrary and subject to racial and class bias.

"Amnesty International is calling on the USA to end these violations of the right to freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, the right to freedom from arbitrary detention and the right to life. The US government has so far been reluctant to ratify international human rights standards which guarantee such basic rights, and to bring US law and practice into line with these standards. Taking such steps would be a clear signal of its intent to ensure human rights for all its people.

"As a leading supplier of arms, security equipment and military training, the US government has an obligation to ensure that there are systems in place to prevent the export of this equipment and expertise to governments or armed groups which will use them to carry out human rights abuses. In the absence of such controls, the US government and US companies continue to supply human rights abusers with the means to continue violating fundamental human rights.

"Amnesty International's campaign in the USA aims to increase public awareness, both within the country and internationally, about the denial of certain fundamental human rights to many in US society. In this it seeks to complement and support the work of the thousands of human rights activists and defenders in the USA and to increase and strengthen cooperation with the human rights community.

"Amnesty International is making a number of recommendations to federal, state and local governments to increase accountability on human rights issues and achieve some concrete reforms which will help bring an end to these abuses. These recommendations in-

clude: increasing the accountability of the police by setting up effective oversight and monitoring mechanisms; establishing enforceable standards for the treatment of prisoners, including steps to prevent sexual abuse of women and a ban on the use of remotecontrol electro-shock stun belts; an immediate end to the execution of juvenile offenders and the mentally impaired, and a moratorium on executions, as steps towards abolition of the death penalty; an end to the detention of asylum-seekers in jails; ratifying international human rights treaties in full; and adopting a code of conduct to prevent US arms and equipment being used to commit abuses elsewhere in the world.

"The USA has been quick to voice its condemnation of human rights violations in some other countries and to stress, by contrast, the wealth of civil and political rights which it guarantees within its borders. As this report shows, however, it has failed to deliver these rights to many of its people and there are signs that, unless urgent steps are taken, these rights will be further eroded.

"It is with a sense of urgency, therefore, that Amnesty International is launching a major campaign on human rights violations in the USA. The organization's members around the world will be working to promote international human rights standards, to stimulate debate about human rights in the USA, and to publicize the organization's concerns as widely as possible. They will also be urging US federal and state authorities to implement Amnesty International's recommendations as a clear and public affirmation of a renewed commitment to placing human rights protection at the heart of US domestic and foreign policy.

"The USA's contribution to the evolution of our understanding of basic human rights is a remarkable part of its national inheritance. Yet the promise of human rights for all people, spelled out 50 years ago in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, remains unrealized for sections of US society. Central to the concept of human rights embodied in the Universal Declaration is that human rights cannot be guaranteed selectively. If one right can be violated with impunity, then so can another, and perhaps with even greater ease. If one person can be denied their basic human rights, for whatever reason, then it is that much easier to deny those rights to someone else.

"The call for greater respect for human rights in the USA is part of a campaign to promote those rights for all people in all countries. If you wish to add your voice to the call for rights for all, join us in our campaign."

Web Site: <http://www.rightsforall-usa.org/info/report/r09.htm>

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WHAT YOU CAN DO: WRITE! TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL TO PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA TO THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

With both the United National Commission on Human Rights and Amnesty International focusing attention on human rights abuses in the U.S., now is the time to make contact with both bodies, and urge that they include the issue of U.S. Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War in their investigations. It would also be a good time to write to President Nelson Mandela, and ask him to make the issue of U.S. Political Prisoners his own personal crusade. A sample letter to President Mandela follows, with addresses at the end.

In the Summer issue of *Buffalo Chip*, we suggested that South African President Nelson Mandela was the ideal person to take the issue of U.S. Political Prisoners to the United Nations. We publish the following letter, which is one of those already sent to President Mandela, in the hope that you will want to add your voice to this effort, if you have not already done so.

Dear President Mandela:

You are one of those few human beings who have lived your life in this terrible century and met its challenges in such a way that every human being who ever lives on this earth from this day forward will be in your debt.

It is because of the respect in which you are held throughout the world that we in the United States appeal to you to bring the issue of U.S. Political Prisoners to the United Nations.

I don't believe anyone is quite certain how many such individuals are incarcerated in U.S. prisons -- the estimates run from fifty to several hundred. Some of these men and women have been incarcerated since the 1960s -- swept up by collusion between the FBI and local police forces, through the FBI's surreptitious COINTEL Program.

Various justice committees for individual Political Prisoners have been in operation for years, appealing to the courts, to state Pardons and Parole Boards, to the U. S. Congress -- all to no avail. The political climate is currently focused totally on punishment and longer incarceration. We are even executing those who committed crimes as children, and the mentally retarded. Vengeance is the watchword, and no elected official will take up this issue.

It is for this reason that we feel that the only hope that these men and women have of living some of the remainder of their lives in freedom would be if someone of your stature brought this issue to the forum of the United Nations.

I appeal to you in particular on behalf of Mondo we Langa (formerly David Rice) and Ed Poindexter -- two Political Prisoners, who were, I believe, wrongfully convicted 27 years ago for the murder of a policeman here in

the City of Omaha, Nebraska. The case remains controversial here in Nebraska, even today...

Ed and Mondo are former members of the Black Panther Party, which was so feared and hated by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover that his COINTELPRO directive authorized the FBI to use any means necessary to infiltrate and destroy organizations of Black political dissidents.

I knew Mondo at that time, and I have never known a more non-violent person in his actions than he was and is. I have never believed him capable of killing. I have corresponded with Ed for several years now, and also firmly believe him to be innocent of this crime.

I appeal to you, President Mandela, even though you deserve to rest on your laurels, to consider helping these helpless people. In any case, we are forever grateful to you for all you have already done.

Sincerely,

ADDRESSES:

President Nelson Mandela

Private Bag X1000
Pretoria 0001
SOUTH AFRICA;

Maurice Glele-Adhanhazo

Special Rapporteur on Contemporary Forms of Racism
c/o Center for Human rights
United Nations
8-14 Avenue de la Paix
Geneva
SWITZERLAND

Bacre Waly Ndiaye

United Nations Commission on Human Rights
[same address as above]

NOTE: U.S. postage for foreign mail is 60 cents for a one-half ounce letter, and \$1 for one ounce.

CREDITS

Thanks to all those who have so generously made their material available to the Omaha Justice Committee. Some of them are:

Frontline News Service

Committee to End the Marion Lockdown

Raze the Walls!

CA Coalition for Women Prisoners

Meg Henson Scales, via Frontline News Service

John W. at CERJ

Out of Control -- the Lesbian Committee to

Support Women Political Prisoners

And special thanks to Sis Marpessa!



Your contributions make this newsletter possible, and your help is much appreciated. Please make checks payable to Buffalo Chip. Thank you!

Yes, I want to help to increase awareness about justice issues in the U.S. I enclose \$_____ to help cover costs of publishing Buffalo Chip.

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CANADA

What We're All About (cont. from p. 1)

contact with some 100 political and religious prisoners, representing movements of oppressed people in the U.S. Ed Poindexter and Mondo we Langa are included in this roster, which consists mostly of people of color, such as American Indian Movement advocates (Leonard Peltier, for example), militant African Americans (former Black Panther Party and Black Liberation Army participants), and Puerto Rican independentists, as well as some European-Americans who have proclaimed solidarity with minority peoples for self-determination.

Political Prisoners were often convicted on highly questionable evidence, with heavy involvement by the FBI, through its **COINTELPRO**. Those so convicted were sentenced to inordinately long terms, and have been refused parole long after those convicted of similar crimes were released.

The U.S. government consistently denies the existence of political or religious prisoners within its prisons, and is rather self-righteous about accusing other nations of human rights abuses. But it begins to look as though the **United Nations Commission on Human Rights** and **Amnesty International** are about to call he U.S. governments bluff. Read **Buffalo Chip** for more information.



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